



Providence

Targeted Research Enhancement Program

Director: Peter D Friedmann, MD, MPH

Executive Summary for Fiscal Year 2008

HSR&D funded the Program to Integrate Psychosocial & Health Services in Chronic Disease & Disability as a TREP in 2004 to serve as the focal point for HSR&D activities at the Providence VAMC. The goal of our program is to create a core program of investigators, social scientists and statisticians to facilitate career development and initiate HSR&D research projects at the Providence VA Medical Center (PVAMC), an affiliate of Brown Medical School. Brown's Departments of Community Health and Medicine have significant NIH-supported Health Services Research funding, but the PVAMC has limited VA HSR&D activity or infrastructure in 2004 before our program began. The mission of the Providence VA Medical Center TREP draws on strengths at Brown and PVAMC is to advance understanding of the associations among psychosocial features, behavior, care structure, processes and outcomes in veterans with chronic disease and disability; and to study multidisciplinary service interventions and systems.

During FY 08 we have reached our Team's objectives to:

- 1) Build health services research (HSR) infrastructure in primary care firms and the rehabilitation program affiliated with PVAMC. The major primary care reorganization led by Dr. O'Toole at Providence VAMC provides a fertile environment to examine innovative organizational structure and processes in primary care settings. Drs. Resnik and Allen have also made great strides in developing projects in rehabilitation, including a recent SDP and a newly funded IIR.
- 2) Conduct pilot projects to support the development of new investigators who can compete for HSR&D Research Career Development (RCDA), Merit Review, and NIH/AHRQ award. Drs. Wu, Resnik and Pirraglia made substantial progress with their pilot projects. Drs. Wu and Resnik have used the pilot data generated with TREP funds to compete successfully for HSR&D Merit Review awards. We are in the process of developing other junior investigators (Amal Trivedi & David Dosa) to compete for CDAs.
- 3) Develop HSR infrastructure at PVAMC that will enable successful competition for REAP status. With funding of 3 HSR&D investigators, we achieved the minimum requirement to compete for REAP status. Based on our strategic retreat, which occurred in August 2007, we have focused our theme toward research on systems, outcomes and quality in chronic disease and rehabilitation and our investigators have initiated collaborative projects around common interest in these areas. Dr. Mor has also stepped down as chair of the Steering Committee to allow him to participate more in mentoring activities. He has been replaced by Dr. Terrie Wetle.